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10 APR 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Intelligence

INFO : Deputy Director of Central Intelligence
Deputy to the DCI for the Intelligence
Community
Deputy to the DCI for National Intelligence
Officers

SUBJECT : Soviet Economic and Technological Benefits
from Detente

1. I had some free criticism on this paper from certain outside readers, which I will share with you. The basic comment was that the fundamental line of the paper, to the effect that U. S. technology is not apt to produce major impacts on the Soviet economy, was thought to be unduly soporific in its impact on possible U. S. efforts to restrain the leakage of military-related technology which the report itself notes could be of value to the Soviets. There may be some political position involved in this criticism, but I thought I would share it with you.

2. I think the basic theme of the report is accurate, and certainly its subject matter was specifically the impact of Soviet economic and technological benefits rather than the military benefits. We certainly have no doubts as to the accuracy of our judgment in this regard, either. At the same time, perhaps the military-related point comes in as a bit too much of an afterthought in view of its significance in U.S.-Soviet relations and the balance of power. Certainly let us not rewrite all our papers into scare papers, and let us try to give an accurate reflection of the problems we face rather than merely crying Wolf, Wolf. At the same time, I think there is some justice in the contention that the intelligence community exists primarily for its contribution to the national security and welfare. Thus our evaluations of foreign situations should give special attention to how they might impact on the U. S., in order to increase their relevancy to our decision-making processes.

WEC

W. E. Colby
Director

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WEC:jlp (10 April 1974)

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